

Abu Alaa denies he will visit Jerusalem soon

TUNIS (R) — A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official denied on Sunday he planned to visit occupied Jerusalem near future. An Israeli official said on Sunday Ahmad Quriyah, the head of the Palestinian team in the secret negotiations which led to the Israeli-PLO agreement, would attend a business conference in Jerusalem between Oct. 30 and Nov. 1. But Mr. Quriyah said in a statement in Tunis: "This report is baseless and my visit to Jerusalem is dependent on the Israeli army withdrawing from the occupied territories." Mr. Quriyah is the director of the PLO's Economic Department, Samed.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

Arabs schedule boycott talks in Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — Arab officials will meet in Damascus this month and discuss blacklisting more companies doing business with Israel in spite of U.S. pressure to end the boycott. "Invitations had been sent to all Arab states to attend the 67th meeting in Oct. 24 in Damascus," a spokesman for the Arab Boycott Office, which is based in the Syrian capital, told Reuters. "The meeting would discuss cases of companies that should be boycotted, companies to be removed from the boycott list and other issues related to the operations of the boycott offices," he said. He did not name any companies. The United States has stepped up pressure for an end to the 40-year-old boycott since Israel signed a self-rule accord with the Palestine Liberation Organisation last month. Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, in a U.S. television interview, said the boycott should last until Israel withdrew from all Arab lands. "No one can expect to pluck the fruits of peace while peace itself is still absent," Mr. Assad said.

Volume 17 Number 5426

AMMAN MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1993, RABIE' AL THANI 18, 1414

Price: 150 Fils

Guerrillas attack Israeli allies

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (R) — Guerrillas attacked an Israeli-backed militia post in South Lebanon with mortars, rockets and machineguns three times Sunday, security sources said. There were no reports of casualties. In the last attack guerrillas fired several Katyusha rockets and at least 20 mortar bombs at a South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia post at Shoumriyeh on the tip of Israel's self-declared "security zone," the sources said. The pro-Syrian Amal movement, led by Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, claimed responsibility for two earlier attacks in which guerrillas fired anti-tank rockets and machineguns at the hilltop post.

29 killed in Kurdish Insurgency

ANKARA (R) — A family of nine were "burnt to death in their house by Kurdish separatist rebels" in southeast Turkey, Anatolia news agency reported on Sunday. In other incidents in the insurgency, Turkish troops killed 17 rebels in a series of clashes. Two soldiers were killed and the guerrillas shot dead a bus passenger. The semi-official Anatolia said the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) guerrillas set fire to houses as they fled after ambushing a military truck in Mus province on Saturday. Nine people, seven of them children, died in one house, Anatolia said. A soldier and a guerrilla were killed in the ambush, added the report, which could not be independently confirmed.

Iran seizes five Kuwaiti boats

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Iranian authorities have seized five Kuwaiti boats in the northern Gulf and detained 19 fishermen, an Interior Ministry official said Sunday. Kuwait was in contact with Tehran to secure their release. "Five boats, with 19 fishermen on board, were seized on Friday after straying out of Kuwait territorial waters," the official said. He did not specify whether the boats were in international or Iranian waters when they were intercepted.

Police officer killed in Suez

CAIRO (AFP) — One policeman was killed and seven were injured in a clash with Muslim fundamentalists outside a mosque in the eastern Egyptian city of Suez, police said Sunday. Security forces, meanwhile, detained almost 200 suspected Islamic militants in a crackdown ahead of Monday's referendum in which President Hosni Mubarak was set to win a third term in office. Police said the clash erupted late Saturday as fundamentalists shouted anti-government slogans and tried to put up posters outside a mosque. An officer, Major Mohammad Abdul Shafiq, was shot dead and seven other policemen injured in an exchange of fire.

Israel-PLO pact example for Tibet

CALCUTTA (R) — The Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, said Sunday the agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) could be an example for solving the Tibet problem. "If the PLO and Israel, which had engaged in hostilities for such a long time, could now enter into an agreement, why cannot there be one between Tibet and China," the Dalai Lama told reporters in Calcutta.

Montazeri in hospital

TEHRAN (AFP) — Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, once the heir to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini as Iran's spiritual guide, has undergone a kidney operation and is recovering in hospital, his son said Sunday. The 71-year-old Ayatollah entered a Tehran hospital last Tuesday and had the operation two days later, Ahmad Montazeri said.

Russian hardliners launch armed revolt

Yeltsin declares emergency, moves troops; Rutsikoi, Khasbulatov direct supporters

Combined agency dispatches

MOSCOW — Hardline communists seeking to restore the Soviet Union launched an armed uprising Sunday to overthrow President Boris Yeltsin, taking the offensive after a 12-day standoff over the future of Russia.

Mr. Yeltsin declared a state of emergency in Moscow, banning rallies and demonstrations.

A major television channel went off the air, stormed by anti-Yeltsin forces after day-long clashes with police in the capital that Moscow's Mayor Yuri Luzhkov said killed four people.

He blamed "bandits" for the deaths of two policemen and two Interior Ministry soldiers. He said the first five floors of the mayor's building had been seized by raiders.

Mr. Yeltsin said in a message broadcast on television that his supporters would defeat any attempt to oust him by supporters of the conservative parliament.

"We will win," Mr. Yeltsin said, calling on Muscovites to defend "democracy and liberty."

"We have enough forces to restore order in Moscow. Today is the destiny of Russia and its children that is being decided," he said.

The message was the first official public reaction by Mr. Yeltsin to the crisis that struck Moscow Sunday as pro-parliament supporters rampaged through the city, seizing city hall and attacking several media installations, notably the Ostankino television centre and the Itar-Tass news agency.

CNN said eight people were killed and 100 injured as Rutsikoi loyalists stormed the Ostankino television tower.

The television showed pictures of dead bodies in uniform and of injured people being treated at a Moscow hospital.

Radio Russia said Mr. Yeltsin was bringing paratroopers to the Russian capital.

The radio said a unit of paratroopers from the city of Tula, south of Moscow, had



A blood-covered police officer tries to reach safety on a militia vehicle after being badly wounded during violent clashes between marching protesters and security forces outside the White House in Moscow Sunday (AFP photo)

been summoned to the capital.

Quoting well informed sources, it said a unit of Interior Ministry troops based outside Moscow had gone over to the parliamentary side.

Journalists at the Ostankino building said the ground floor was ablaze and defenders and attackers continued to exchange gunfire.

But Russian news agencies said the assault on the building had been resisted and government reinforcements were arriving at the scene.

An official of Itar-Tass later broadcast a statement saying the agency was continuing to work normally despite the presence of armed anti-Yeltsin

protestors in part of the building.

"Despite the blockade imposed on Itar-Tass by armed men, the news service is continuing its work normally," the agency's director, Vitaly Ignatenko, said in a dispatch sent over the agency's wires.

A Itar-Tass journalist told AFP that 16 armed men wearing red armbands stamped with the hammer and sickle symbol of the former Soviet Union had taken up positions on the ground floor of the agency's headquarters.

He said discussions were underway between agency offi-

cials and the men, who described themselves as backers of ousted Vice-President Alexander Rutsikoi.

Chaotic scenes sparked the worst violence in a protracted crisis over who rules the vast, nuclear-armed country.

About 15,000 angry demonstrators forced their way through rows of police cordons to break a siege of parliament, sheltering lawmakers deposed by Mr. Yeltsin in a Sept. 21 decree paving a way for fresh elections.

Mr. Rutsikoi, the chief opposition leader, urged tanks to storm the Kremlin.

In Washington, the Clinton administration called events in Moscow disturbing and voiced support for Mr. Yeltsin. President Bill Clinton said the United States must back "Yeltsin and the process of bringing about free and fair elections."

But longtime rival, former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, said Mr. Yeltsin must pull all armed forces out of Moscow and rescind his decree imposing emergency rule.

Mr. Yeltsin's foes, apparently in a carefully-planned action, seized control of part of the Ostankino TV headquarters in northeast Moscow.

Later the main Commonwealth Television channel went off the air after anti-Yeltsin forces stormed into TV headquarters, a Reuter correspondent reported from outside the building.

Russia's second channel continued to broadcast. Its television centre is situated at another point in central Moscow.

"All programmes on channel one are being switched off because Ostankino is being stormed, but it has not yet been fully overrun," a spokesman said.

Reuter correspondent Christian Burckhardt, at the scene, reported flames and explosions from an adjacent building to the TV centre, and the sound of firing.

An AFP journalist at the

(Continued on page 10)



Protesters beat and kick a riot policeman after their march was stopped by police on one of the main Moscow streets Sunday (AFP photo)

Jordan, Palestinians study economic ties — Majali

Premature to judge scope and outcome

By Jamal Halaby
The Associated Press

AMMAN — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali said Sunday Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) were discussing economic cooperation between the Kingdom and Palestinians in territories soon to gain autonomy from Israel under a peace accord.

But he said it was premature to speculate on the scope and details of any interaction.

In an interview with the Associated Press, Dr. Majali said the government was awaiting the return of Crown Prince Hassan from Washington to learn details of a Jordanian-Israeli economic committee formed after a meeting in Washington Friday between Prince Hassan and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

The White House meeting was the first such high-level encounter between the two Middle East neighbours, which have been technically in a state of war since the creation of the Jewish state in 1948.

The committee they established would serve as a vehicle for Jordan to receive some of the funds pledged by nations to help implement the self-rule agreement between Israel and the PLO.

At a conference held in Washington last week, inter-



Abdul Salam Al Majali

national donors pledged more than \$2 billion in aid for the Palestinians over the next two years.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said the funds were not enough, and that \$5 billion are needed over that period to set an infrastructure in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Dr. Majali said Jordan, too, was expecting international assistance "rather quickly" to remedy its economic woes.

"Jordan has its own projects and it needs support," he said. "It is going to be too dangerous to put more burdens — the price of peace — on the Jordanians."

Under the historic PLO-Israeli accord, the Palesti-

nians will have limited autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for a period of five years while negotiations get under way in the final status of these territories.

Israel and Jordan signed a document committing them to an agenda for future peace talks on Sept. 14, a day after the PLO-Israeli accord was signed at the White House.

Jordan ruled the West Bank before it was occupied by Israel in 1967. The Kingdom renounced all territorial claims to the land in 1988.

Palestinians make up a nearly half of Jordan's 3.9 million population. They control much of the Kingdom's economy through banks, major trading houses and industries they own.

The Kingdom is saddled with \$6.5 billion in foreign debt. Its budget has been especially strained since the 1991 Gulf crisis, when opposition to Iraq cost Amman millions of dollars in aid from the oil-rich Gulf states.

Jordan's role in the Palestinian autonomy has not been clearly defined, adding to the government's worries.

Palestinian officials in Amman said the economic cooperation under study would involve Jordanian control of Palestinian banking and financial institutions in the autonomous territories, con-

(Continued on page 10)

Israeli forces hunt activists; Hamas strikes, PLO protests

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

— Israel said on Sunday its army was targeting militants opposed to its peace deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and denied this violated understandings with the Palestinian leadership.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat protested in a letter to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin about the killing of two members of the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas on Saturday and the arrest of 16 Arabs, Palestinians said.

A strike called by Hamas shut down the Gaza Strip towns of Nusseirat and Bureij, where the local leader and deputy of Hamas' armed wing were gunned down in an army sweep on Saturday, a correspondent reported.

Masked Hamas members, who oppose the Israel-PLO autonomy accord, paraded in the streets of Bureij before the army deployed in force, witnesses said.

The protest action was only partially observed in Gaza City, where unknown

violence against Palestinians after Saturday's massive military sweep, less than two weeks ahead of the launch of Palestinian autonomy.

Protesters burned tyres at several crossroads in the city.

"We will carry on our actions in the (occupied) territories and particularly in Gaza against Palestinians wanted for terrorism," Gaza army commander General Yom Tov Sama told Israel Radio.

He branded the wanted men as "suicidal," an allusion to a spate of suicide bomb attacks in September that left three fundamentalists dead but failed to kill any Israelis.

The PLO urged Israel to halt

violence against Palestinians after Saturday's massive military sweep, less than two weeks ahead of the launch of Palestinian autonomy.

"I emphasise our actions against wanted Hamas activists... that is the main emphasis on my part in the near future," Gen. Sama said.

He said the army would not use the same measures against groups that halted attacks on

(Continued on page 10)

Woman wounded

AN ISRAELI woman was shot and wounded by gunfire from a passing car south of Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank Sunday, Israel Radio said.

Israeli security sources confirmed an Israeli woman had been shot and wounded but they did not initially know the nature of the vehicles involved.

(Continued on page 10)

'Displaced' persons may return, but questions remain on where and how

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — On October 13, 1993, a joint Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel standing committee will begin to decide on procedures for the return of 1967 displaced persons, or so says the peace timetable as forwarded by the Gaza-Jericho first plan.

Thus far it has not been made clear by either the PLO or the Israeli government exactly who is a 1967 displaced person and how his/her repatriation will be effected.

According to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), some 240,000 Palestinians native to the territories occupied by Israel after the June 1967 Arab-Israeli war were displaced to Jordan. These people are officially considered "displaced" rather than refugees, since the territories in question "were under Jordanian rule and thus the people were not made refugees from one country to another, but were internally displaced."

In contrast, 1967 refugees are those Palestinians who fled their homes in what became the state of Israel in 1948. Most of these people lived from 1948 to 1967 in the West Bank or the Gaza Strip. The became homeless a second time in 1967 when they crossed the Jordan River and took refuge in the Kingdom.

UNRWA registered some 150,000 such two-time refugees in Jordan in 1967.

Therefore about 390,000 Palestinians fled to Jordan in 1967 as a result of the war.

Some PLO officials already fear that the difference in terminology may be used at some point by Israeli officials to "change their minds on who goes back and who does not."

The Oslo Accord or PLO-Israel Declaration of Principles says in Article XII, "the arrangements will include the constitution of a standing committee that will decide by agreement on the modalities of admission of persons displaced from the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967, together with necessary measures to prevent disruption and disorder."

The standing committee according to Article XII will liaise with the governments of Jordan and Egypt.

For many political observers the article is vague at best. While PLO officials are not saying who exactly can go back, what repatriation system will be used and what the timetable is for repatriation, they are slowly but surely trying to clarify some points of confusion.

The PLO officials say that Palestinians, be they in Jordan or elsewhere, who fled the occupied territories in 1967 and are stateless, in that they do not carry the nationality of any country, are likely to get "priority status."

According to PLO officials there are "at least" 250,000 Palestinians residing in Jordan with "at least" another



A United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) official assists Palestinian women in one of several centres established

to provide various services to refugees and displaced persons (File photo)

150,000 residing in Syria.

"The stateless people in Jordan, or those with two-year Jordanian passports or refugee travel documents, who fled in 1967, will be given special consideration and may even get priority," said a senior PLO official while on a visit to Amman earlier this week.

Carefully choosing his words in order to avoid "giving hope to too many," the official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said "the people who are here on temporary passports and travel permits have priority over others." According to the PLO official, up to 250,000 Palestinians in Jordan have

temporary or two-year passports. The Jordan Times was not able to obtain a confirmation of this figure from the Jordanian ministers involved.

Thus far no clarifications as to the qualifying factors for early return have been announced by the PLO or Israel.

According to the Foreign passport Division at the third Circle in Amman, these Palestinians have never had voting rights since they are not considered citizens of the state. Besides, they are the most impoverished category of people in Jordan and their legal position internally is no different from that of

any foreign labourer in the country.

About 70,000—100,000 of the quarter million Palestinians concerned are from the Gaza Strip. They were given Jordanian travel documents or two-year passports after the 1988 decision to disengage from the West Bank.

Previously they held Egyptian travel documents which would renew through the Egyptian Embassy in Amman.

But despite the hopes of the PLO that the 250,000 Palestinians with temporary Jordanian travel permits will be able to return to the autonomous regions in the occupied territories, their status remains in "limbo."

"We are here and we are living relatively well," said Um Zaki, 48, a displaced person from Khan Younis in the Gaza Strip who has made the Baqa'a refugee camp her home for the last 25 years.

"We have no house in Khan Younis ... at least we have one here," said the mother of twelve.

Her son Ziad, disturbed by his mother's complacency said: "No, we want to go back to Gaza — we will welcome it — if they tell us to go back tomorrow we will."

The difference of opinion between parent and child in this Gazan family, who has lived for 25 years in Jordan on first Egyptian then Jordanian travel permits, is a reflection of the wider displaced persons' scene in Jordan.

"I like the security here," says Um Zaki. But her sons argue that as non-citizens they are not allowed to own land, property, or open their own business, and such living conditions are not conducive to staying on in the long term, they maintain.

"The first chance we have to return, we will do so ... because that is our only hope of citizenship and national independence," said Zaki, 32.

At the Land Registration Office in the Amman suburb of Wadi Seer, three Gazans, dealing in sports garments registered their shops in the names of friends because, as one official explained, "they are not Jordanians, they have two-year passports ... in order to own a shop they need to register it in the name of a Jordanian citizen."

Many displaced Palestinians in Jordan are business people who have registered their businesses in the names of Jordanian nationals, said the official. "I have personally registered some 100 businesses of this sort," he added.

These Palestinians have economic interests which would encourage them to stay in Jordan even if they were allowed to return to Gaza or Jericho, explained Ziad.

"Economic interests will make a lot of difference — if they make it economically interesting in the autonomous regions, a lot of people will go back — if not, many will prefer to stay in Jordan," he said.

Jordan to celebrate Arab Child Day



Jordanian school girls rush home after classes in Jabal Amman (Staff photo by Aymen Floyd)

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will join the Arab and International Community Monday in celebrating the Arab Child Day and International Day of the Child which has chosen "the school and a better future for children," as the theme of its commemoration.

Celebrations will be held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

The week-long celebrations will include lectures, competitions, book exhibitions, recreational trips and a free-medical day, during which doctors will examine children free of charge at the various social development centres, in the Kingdom according to Minister of Social Development Mohammad Al Squr.

In 1984, the Cabinet adopted a resolution by the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs, stipulating that the International Day of the Child would be observed in the Arab World as well. Since then the first Monday of October every year would be commemorated as the Arab Child Day.

The same year, the cabinet also adopted the charter of the rights of the Arab Child as an official charter binding to Jordan.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by artist Ali Al Mi'mar at the Orfali Art Gallery, Telephone 826932.
- ★ Photographic exhibition on nature and the township of Sakeb by artist Ghassan 'Ayyash at the Student Affairs Department at the University of Jordan.
- ★ Exhibition of etchings by Mohammad Omar Khalil at Darat Al Funan, the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh. Also showing the permanent exhibition. Telephone 643251/2.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by artist Hussein Daaseb at the Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Caricature drawings exhibition by artists Mustafa Al Wawi and Alis Tahash at the University of Jordan's Student Affairs Department.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings and old manuscripts at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Painting exhibition by artist Fatah Moodarres at the Balatina Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition entitled "Eastern Dancing — Entertainment in Spare Time" by Sigrid Bensemann at Goethe Institute.
- ★ The First International Festival of Fine Arts in Jordan entitled "Colour and Light in the Nabatean Civilisation" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts in Jordan.

DRAMAS

- ★ Children's drama entitled "Aladdin's Lamp" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 1:00 a.m.
- ★ Folklore drama entitled "The Season" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

FILMS

- ★ Film entitled "Le Dernier Milliardaire" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

BOOK EXHIBITION

- ★ Comprehensive book and educational aids exhibition at the International Exhibition Hall - University Road.



NHF head leaves for meeting in Italy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Noor Al Hussein Foundation President In'am Mufti left for Italy Sunday to attend the special working group meeting to develop a proposal for the Brussels meetings on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women which will be held in 1994. Mrs. Mufti will also attend the regular third meeting of the International Steering Committee (ISC) representatives which will make the final preparations for the Brussels meeting. She will brief these meetings on the activities sponsored by Her Majesty Queen Noor, as a member of the ISC, in response to the Geneva Declaration and mechanisms of its implementation in Jordan.

He said that the department collected JD98,281,396 since the beginning of 1993.

Mr. Haddadin added that the department expects to collect a total of JD120 million by the end of the year.

4,000 housing units under way — HUDD

World Habitat Day is devoted to women in shelter development

AMMAN (J.T.) — In activating the National Housing Strategy to meet the actual needs of the population, the Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD) is building 4,000 housing units, according to Yousef Hiyasat, director general of HUDD.

The project is worth JD 30 million, said Mr. Hiyasat on the eve of World Habitat Day Monday.

Since its establishment, the department has built 30,000 housing units in 100 housing schemes, valued at JD 250 million and housing 200,000 citizens, said Mr. Hiyasat.

All the housing projects executed by HUDD, he added, are supplied with the basic infrastructure and services.

The housing units under construction are a JD 5 million project in Beit Kar in Irbid governorate, a JD 6 million project in Zarqa, a JD 2.5 million project in Salt, a JD 3.5 million in Aqaba in Balqa governorate, and a JD 2.5 million project to develop the old districts of the port city of Aqaba, said the HUDD chief.

Housing projects in Marka, Manarah and Mustanidah are also being built, said Mr. Hiyasat.

World Habitat Day

Habitat, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements today marks World Habitat Day. On the occasion, U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali said this year's theme, "Women in Shelter Development," highlights the plight of hundreds of millions of women living in communities without basic housing, amenities and services."

"Women's commitment to their children, their homes and their communities has been central to the survival and social development of people in all cultures and societies. It is time to recognise and facilitate their contribution by taking practical steps to eliminate all vestiges of discrimination and

inequality, such as legal and social restrictions on their access to land and to credit, which hinder their full and equal participation in the development of human settlements," said Dr. Ghali.

Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Under-Secretary-General of Habitat, said in her message on the occasion that "down through the ages and in all cultures women have been — sometimes literally — the homemakers. It is they who bear children and bear the burden of taking care of them. Thus the creation of a home, a shelter from the elements and a base for the family, has been primarily the women's responsibility."

"Women are also central to the functioning of their communities whether a village or an urban settlement. Women do most of the work needed to keep their communities clean, convivial and safe. This is often hard and difficult, especially in poor urban settlements."

"Yet when it comes to determining settlements policies, planning settlements and designing housing programmes women are hardly consulted. Thus their needs are unmet for."

"National governments, non-governmental organisations, donor agencies and international organisations need to respond now to the situation and needs of women. Only this will ensure that housing projects are more people friendly and take into account the requirements of women as well as men, girls as well as boys."

In planning "better shelter and hence better communities," Mrs. Dowdeswell had the following suggestions:

— Remove legal barriers to housing for women

— Inform women of their rights

— Increase credit to the poor, particularly women

— Involve women at all levels of decision-making, and

— Provide relevant training so that they may participate in such decision-making.



ELECTION PREPARATIONS: Prime Minister Abdal Salam Al Majali Sunday meets with officials of the Executive Council of Amman. At the meeting Dr. Majali said the Election Law will be enforced to the letter during the coming parliamentary elections scheduled for Nov. 8, and the government will adhere strictly to its provisions and terms. No public institution will be allowed to serve as a centre for electioneering, added the prime minister (Petra photo)

Visiting World Food Programme official to assess highlands development project

AMMAN (J.T.) — The World Food Programme (WFP) strives to maintain and finance land reclamation and highlands development schemes in the Kingdom, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, according to Bodo Henze, head of a visiting WFP technical team.

Speaking after a meeting with Minister of Agriculture Marwan Kamal, Mr. Henze said that during his 3-week visit to Jordan he and his colleagues will assess the progress of the WFP-financed project which is now in its third year.

He said his team will study with the Ministry of Agriculture the prospect of increasing allocations for the programme

in Jordan and will introduce some changes aimed at yielding better results.

Mr. Henze said he will meet farmers involved in the development projects in the areas of Irbid, Ajloun, Kura, Zarqa, Ma'an, Tafleeh, Karak and Salt.

The highland development programme, initiated in cooperation with the ministry of agriculture, aims at assisting the Kingdom in developing this agricultural region, according to ministry officials.

Referring to the nature of WFP assistance in this programme, Mr. Henze said WFP provides food, labour expertise and equipment to people farming their own land.

3rd industrial city to go up

AMMAN (Petra) — In view of the growing demand for industrial space, the Jordanian Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) has appropriated a 210-dunum plot in the Balqa governorate for the establishment of a third industrial city after the Sahab and Al Hassan industrial cities of the Amman and Irbid area.

JIEC Director General Fayed Suheimat said that work on the Balqa site near Salt is expected to start early next year after the designs have been completed.

In order to encourage industry in other governorates, said Dr. Suheimat, the corporation plans to set up additional sites in the governorates of Karak, Tafleeh, Ma'an, Aqaba, as well as in the Jordan Valley.

With increasing demands on the Sahab Industrial City, the JIEC is studying the possibility

of buying additional lands adjacent to the project within the Greater Amman region, Dr. Suheimat.

He said since the establishment of the JIEC in 1980 to mid-August 1993, 301 medium and small-size industries were set up at the Sahab project with an overall capital of JD 201 million.

These projects, he said, have created 9,000 jobs.

Dr. Suheimat said these manufacturers produce electric appliances, chemicals, plastics, food stuffs, textiles, furniture, kitchens, tissue paper, pharmaceuticals, leather and construction materials.

Almost 60 per cent of these projects export their products, added Dr. Suheimat.

He said that Jordan's laws on encouraging investments helped bring 45 industrial

factories to Sahab from Arab and foreign countries or through joint investments with Jordanian business persons.

Dr. Suheimat said the JIEC is keen on providing not only the infrastructure for its industrial cities, but is also providing the required services to facilitate production.

He said that because of repeated complaints about water supply shortages at Sahab, the JIEC has appropriated an area in an adjacent area to provide additional water supplies to the industrial city.

Referring to the Hassan industrial city near Irbid, Dr. Suheimat said that JIEC has issued licences for 40 projects with an overall capital of JD 27 million.

He said increasing demand there prompted the corporation to expand the facilities by another 13,000 square metres.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1972

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
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University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

'Right' does not mean rights

THE RENEGING by Bosnian Serbs on their earlier agreement to offer the Bosnian Muslims some territorial compromise came on the heels of a similar move by the Croats a few days ago. These two developments were attributed to the Bosnian Muslim parliament's rejection of the international peace plan dividing Bosnia into three ethnic states. With the benefit of hindsight, the scene in Bosnia has an eerie feeling of what happened in Palestine since the forties up to this point in time. It will be remembered that the Palestinian Arabs constituting as they were the majority of their country's population were driven by their deep conviction that "right" could be translated into "might" no matter how long and difficult the process was. The Palestinians now, after several decades of bitter struggle against great regional and international odds, ended up yielding to a mere "Gaza-Jericho first" deal that may or may not satisfy even their minimum needs.

With this in mind, it is difficult not to imagine the Bosnian tragedy as some sort of *deja vu* situation, where Bosnian Muslim content to rely on the righteousness of their cause will prove equal to that of the Palestinians and the Arabs many years ago.

Needless to say, morally and legally, the Bosnian Muslims are totally in the right to refuse to allow the Serbs and Croats the fruits of their ethnic-cleansing and aggression on the solid international foundation that forbids the acquisition of territory by force. Such has been the foundation of the Arab diplomatic and legal battle against Israeli occupation and annexation of their ancestral lands. Yet, we all live in an imperfect world where "right" does not lead to rights.

In other parts of the world, the experience may have been different where indeed right was translated into might on the ground. A living example of this was the war in Vietnam where the weaker side was able to triumph over the stronger party by sheer determination and raw political and military will. In the case of Bosnia, it would appear to fit in perfectly with the experience of Palestine where precipitous rejection of the partition plan might lead to one catastrophe after the other.

The Bosnian Muslims should heed the experience of the Palestinians by comprehending the limitations of being "right" in a region of the world where the odds are obviously on the side of the stronger party. The Bosnian Muslim people have suffered enough already and cannot be expected to endure much more, especially with winter fast approaching. A more balanced and pragmatic course should be anticipated from the Muslims' leadership by trying to resurrect the defunct peace plan orchestrated by the international community through the U.N. and EC mediators, with some modifications if possible.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Sunday commented on His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's warning against a shallow peace that does not tackle the actual problems of the Middle East region. Any peace that does not take into account the basic issues and fulfills the aspirations of the people of the Middle East is bound to fail, said the paper. The people of this region have the right to a peaceful progressive life and have the right to tranquility and to dignity, following four decades of sufferings and shouldering of burdens as a result of regional conflicts, said the paper. The task of establishing and protecting peace, said the paper, is not only the responsibility of the Arab side; Israel ought to respond to the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace in the region, demanded the paper. In its meetings in Washington, Prince Hassan has demanded true regional cooperation if peace is to endure and the interests of all parties are to be safeguarded, added the paper. Therefore, it said, peace is a common interest for all people and no single party should be allowed to make gains at the expense of other parties in this important process. The paper expressed hope that the United States and the world community at large will realize the facts on the ground and deal with them objectively and help all the people in this region enjoy an era of peace and prosperity.

THE PLO-Israeli agreement and the Jordanian-Palestinian agenda for talks do not contain the basic requirements for the establishment of real peace, said Mazen Hammad, a columnist in Al Dastour. The writer said that one should not expect peace to come overnight, after more than 50 years of conflict and while Arab lands remain under occupation. Lifting the Arab boycott against Israel is far too serious a step to be taken at a time when the Middle East has not yet tasted real peace as Crown Prince Hassan has stated in Washington, said the writer. The deals and the agreements can open the way for peace, but unless they are implemented on the ground, and unless the genuine needs of the Arab people are met, these agreements remain meaningless, added the writer. The Arabs have to find out first whether Israel has good intentions and whether its leaders are really bent on seeking a just and comprehensive peace with the Arab countries before taking steps towards ending the boycott, continued Hammad.

Weekly Political Pulse

By Waleed Sadi

Decisions and what lies behind them

THE CASUAL announcement last week that general elections will be held after all on time was disappointing, given the intensity of the debate, deliberations and soul searching that were invested in the decision making. Much more was expected than a mere routine, muted declaration since everyone knew that the last minute switch was not of the ordinary. Moreover, the ultimate position was preceded by a major national decision that was expected to be announced with much fanfare and buttressed by reasons and justifications and blessed by no less than His Majesty King Hussein himself.

The people, one would think, are entitled to comprehend the shift in stance on this vital issue. But in fact, Jordanians were not offered the slightest clue as to how one of the most controversial subjects was dealt with one way or another. It is a well-known fact that the pendulum in favour of holding the election as scheduled swung in place at the very last minute, if not seconds, since all indicators till that point in time strongly suggested that the verdict in support of a postponement of these elections was for all intents and purposes already taken at the highest level. The reservations and anxieties of the King about proceeding with elections under the new and perhaps revolutionary conditions in the region were so convincing that few people doubted where the Monarch stood on the issue.

So what really happened at the end that swung the pendulum the other way? The fact that the prime minister, Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali, was the instrument for the announcement rather than His Majesty the King implies that there was a deliberate effort to downgrade the decision a bit. It also suggests that the King may not have been too pleased with the final resolution of the issue, albeit it was necessary, since his reasonings and submissions on the eve of the decision necessitated an opposite move. The prime national television news bulletin treated the matter therefore as a rather routinized item, occupying a mere third place on the list of important TV news items for that day. All in all, the stoic acceptance of factors that lead to the decision regarding elections suggests that the intuitive feelings of the leadership did not correspond to the rational or pragmatic or compromise reasoning that sealed the fate of the subject.

On the domestic level, there was really nothing that transpired over the last few days that would explain the apparent turnaround. The statesmen or elders of the country, including most of the former prime ministers, and the majority of political parties' leadership were tilting heavily towards the idea of delaying the elections. The former members of

Parliament may have also preferred such a course since it could have breathed new life into their defunct Parliament and revitalised their previous status and role. That leaves wide open the speculation that external factors may have reversed the tide in favour of postponement.

But what could these external developments that culminated in changing the domestic political spectrum over night have been? On the Jordanian-PLO level, there was really nothing that happened after the visit of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to Amman to patch up things, in the wake of his deal with the Israelis. True, several western countries were voicing concern about the direction of the decisions, in the country, regarding the issue, but such a foreign stance is not in the habit of making a difference the way the country moves into. In such domestic matters, the government does not tolerate interference by any side, even when well-intentioned. The mother of all secrets will remain in the heart and soul of the King and a select number of the executive branch of government, privy to the latest developments, share this privileged information.

Some people's imagination has gone too wild trying to read something, that most likely was not there, into the final decision. Some people went as far as to believe in an Israeli-spawned rumour that His Majesty had received the Israeli prime minister at his palace in Aqaba and saw in such an imaginary encounter a possible clue to the subsequent decision. Of course, the rumour about the meeting was deliberately fanned by the Israeli press for Israel's own ulterior motives. As a matter of fact, there is nothing wrong in any such gatherings, if in fact they do occur. Amman lost a great deal of its initiative and ability to manoeuvre by playing shy in its dealing with Israel. Judging by the overwhelming welcome of the tripartite White House meeting Friday, Jordanians and the Arab Nation as a whole are sophisticated enough to understand that there is no more sense in clinging to a sterile style of diplomacy in dealing with our adversaries that is alien to the best of Arab and Islamic traditions. Islamic and Arab leaders throughout their golden days never developed a complex about meeting their enemies out in the open. It is only the recent Arab weaknesses that deprived the Arab Nation of its confidence to engage its foes directly.

But this is not the main issue here. Whether there were in fact external factors or internal ones that led to the decision to respect the original date for holding the national elections, the central concern of the Jordanians remains the fact that they were effectively denied an opportunity to appreciate the basis for such a settlement of the subject.



Profiles in Courage

It must be made to work

Following is an editorial that appeared in the Sept. 24, 1993, issue of the London-based Middle East International

AFTER all the astonishment that it ever happened, the key question now is will the agreement between Israel and the PLO work? Because for all the flaws contained in the Declaration of Principles, and for all the legitimate objections on the Arab side to the way the deal was struck, it is all there is. The consequences of its collapse in the near future will surely be much worse than if the two parties get it off the ground only to see it founder in years to come on the rocks of final status negotiations.

To make it work, of course, a number of things need to happen. On the Israeli side, there appears to be a clear majority in favour of the Oslo Accords and, in any case, it is difficult to see how this or a subsequent Israeli government could go back on its word to withdraw from Jericho and Gaza or the Interim Agreement, when it is negotiated. In other words, once the process of disengagement from the territories begins, it will be very hard to stop.

Western promises of hard cash to fund Gaza's development out of its present squalor are encouraging. But problems like Gaza's are never solved by just throwing money at them. To a large degree it will be the

responsibility of the Palestinian interim administration to ensure the development is structured and as fair as possible. Perhaps just as important for the Palestinians as cash is that the international community ensures Israel plays fair. There are plenty of loopholes in the Declaration of Principles which, as the occupying power, Israel may try to exploit, not least its continued access to Palestinian land and water for its settlers.

The response of the neighbouring states to the Oslo Accords is of great importance. If the Arab World en masse finally comes to terms with Israel's presence in its midst, there will be profound repercussions for the region's future. And while old habits die hard, apart from Syria and Lebanon, none of the Arab states has anything to lose and a great deal to gain by burying the hatchet with Israel.

Realistically, however, progress here is likely to be blocked until it is made in the bilateral talks between Israel and its northern neighbours. While there has been much rhetorical posturing on both sides since the Oslo Accords were signed, the truth of the matter is that there is very little Syria can do until the Israelis show serious flexibility; maybe there is room for a compromise on the Golan, with its limited resources and sparse population, but the Lebanese "security

zone" is an all or nothing situation. Until Israel gives it up, an accord with Syria seems out of the question. The most that can be asked of Syria at this stage is that it gives at least passive support to Yasser Arafat.

But the key element in the deal's success is the Palestinian people. As they watched the ceremony in Washington on Sept. 13, Palestinians' reactions ranged across the whole gamut of emotions. The spontaneous euphoria of the mass demonstrations in Gaza was hardly surprising; if all goes according to plan, Gaza will be free of the Israeli army by mid-April 1994, the West Bank by next July. But others watched with sad disbelief as Mr. Arafat "signed away" their homeland "to save his own skin," to quote a Palestinian journalist in London. To Edward Said the whole business is an "embarrassment" that reduces the PLO from a liberation movement to a glorified local authority. Such reactions are understandable and rather hard to refute. For the terms of the Oslo Accords are those of the victor, Israel, rather than the victim, Palestine. In other decolonisation agreements of recent decades, the occupied have more often than not forced the imperial power to withdraw and so have been able to secure favourable terms for decolonisation. Not so

nevertheless, the Oslo Accords do not make the Palestinians' situation any better than it is at the moment. In any case, opposition from many Palestinian quarters has centred as much over how the deal was done as over its contents, and this continues to dominate much of the debate. But it is vital that the leftist factions and individuals in the movement remain engaged. Hamas has said in the past it will take what it can get, that it will participate in elections in the territories. If the secular opposition remains aloof, from elections or the whole process of negotiating the Interim Agreement, out of principle, politics in the territories will polarise between Mr. Arafat and Fatah and Hamas. It would be a tragedy if Palestinians of the calibre of Mr. Said, Haidar Abu Shafi and others took no part in the establishment of the first Palestinian polity.

Surely, it is naive to believe Palestine is now on the way to certain statehood. Just how Resolution 242 will be implemented remains to be discussed in the final status negotiations. But is it not equally naive to believe that, by rejecting what is on offer now, the implementation of General Assembly Resolution 194 and repatriation or compensation for 1948 refugees or the liberation of East Jerusalem will be made more likely?

Arab, Jewish Americans mobilise support for Israel-PLO accord

By Rosalind Mandine Murphy

WASHINGTON — Arab Americans and Jewish Americans are wasting no time in taking up the challenge of promoting economic development in the West Bank and Gaza in support of the Israel-PLO accord.

The challenge was made by President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore at an unprecedented meeting with the leaders of both communities at the White House just hours after the signing of the accord Sept. 13.

On Sept. 20, Secretary of State Warren Christopher announced a proposal to appoint a task force of Jewish and Arab Americans to help develop joint projects and promote private investment in the region.

The two communities, however, are not waiting for an official task force to get started on their work. The very night of the accord signing, the National Association of Arab Americans (NAAA) and the American Jewish Congress (AJC) announced their intention to work together to mobilise their communities' support.

Noting that the accord has created an atmosphere of cooperation, Henry Siegmund, executive director of the American Jewish Congress, said the two communities are now constructing "a new edition of peace and stability."

Now, he added, both communities "need to deliver something concrete to the Palestinians." Noting that there is a 60 per cent rate of unemployment in Gaza, Mr. Sahouri asked: "How do you bring it down to acceptable levels?" These are the kind of questions both communities must address, he said.

Jewish organisations, too, have pledged to lobby Congress for increased aid for the Palestinians and raise private sector funds for economic development in the West Bank and Gaza — an extraordinary development created by the new atmosphere of cooperation.

"I've been a supporter of economic development and I think it should be both public and private initiatives at this point because there are real opportunities for peace," Lester Pollack, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Jewish Organisations, said.

Mr. Pollack said his organisation can "provide some catalytic action" to promote this economic development and will work "to achieve a consensus" within the Jewish community on this issue.

"It's absolutely obligatory to grasp the opportunity that's been offered and to move forward. The communities' leadership is united in virtually full support for this," Steve Grossman, president of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), told the Washington Times.

AIPAC will support the international effort to raise funds for the West Bank and Gaza as well as support congressional legislation on U.S. aid for the Palestinians, according to the Washington Times.

Both Jewish and Arab American leaders caution, however, that while their communities' commitment to the peace process is great, their resources to raise the levels of investment capital needed in the West Bank and Gaza are limited.

"There are some things we can do that are very important," such as mobilise public support and facilitate private sector initiative, Mark Pelavin said.

However, he added, "it is wrong to over-emphasise the role our communities can play. The states and international organisations who attended the Oct. 1 donor conference are the ones who can come up with most of the resources."

"Our role is a supporting one, not a leading one," Mr. Pelavin said.

"The private sector should be involved, and there is room for the public at large," Khalil Jahshan said. However, he added, "it is important to not allow (governments) to try to substitute for what they should be doing."

The economic needs in the West Bank and Gaza are great, Arab American and Jewish economic projects "are not even registering on the radar," Mr. Jahshan said. However, he added, "I am sure our efforts will be appreciated" — United States Information Agency.

Features

Some Greenpeace members see red over its pollution of the sea

By Caroline Smith
Reuter

AMSTERDAM — Greenpeace faces a dilemma — how "environmentally friendly" should the pressure group be in its own direct action campaigns?

For more than 20 years it has run campaigns to focus attention on ecological issues. But this may have to change if some members succeed in committing the group to greener lobbying tactics.

At the heart of the debate are the fossil-fuel burning ships used in such actions as Greenpeace's shadowing of a Japanese ship carrying highly radioactive plutonium early this year.

Some Greenpeace members say using such vessels means the organisation is willing to pollute the seas to further its ends.

Others argue that a small amount of pollution is a price worth paying for the attention the ships attract to major environmental issues such as whaling and nuclear waste dumping.

"It's a bit of a dilemma," said Greenpeace's marine Director Ulrich Jurgens, who added that

the future of the fleet should be decided at Greenpeace's annual meeting next month.

"No ship is environmentally sound. But do we want to have ships for our image... or do we still want to do the actions which make Greenpeace well known?" said Albert Kuiken, captain of the Solo, one of Greenpeace's best-known vessels.

Under his captaincy the Solo has been shot at and arrested in Russia, rammed by a Japanese frigate and stormed by armed French commandos. The Dutchman knows first-hand the importance of a well-built ship during confrontations at sea.

"If we want a sturdy, fast action ship then of course we have to give in a bit on the level of environmental soundness," he said.

He argues that a little pollution is a necessary evil if campaigners are to remain safe.

Mr. Jurgens is in favour of designing environmentally-friendly vessels which would fulfil the green criteria so important to campaigners but would still allow

action to continue.

"I don't see anything in the market which we could just buy (to replace the old fleet)," he said.

Other members of Greenpeace say designing and building ships is a waste of contributors' money.

Capt. Kuiken said it was unfortunate so many people in the organisation paid so much attention to the environmental side of the ships.

"It's very understandable... but I hope it doesn't mean we are becoming lame ducks. We will end up with amazing environmental ships which will not be a threat to polluters."

Capt. Kuiken believes the aim of a campaign is to stop pollution. He said he had never heard a supporter say "the action was great but it's a pity you had to burn some fuel to do it."

The Solo has already been converted to make it more environmentally sound.

It uses a light fuel which has a sulphur content of only 0.2 to 0.3 per cent — a more expensive alternative to heavy fuel contain-

ing three per cent sulphur. Exchangers were fitted to warm the ship with excess engine heat, and the engines were adapted to clean the exhaust fumes.

The ideal alternative for some would be a wind-powered vessel that burns no fuel. But not for Capt. Kuiken.

He captained the Solo when it tracked the progress of the Japanese freighter Akatsuki Maru carrying 1.7 tonnes of plutonium to Japan from France.

While at sea the Solo was rammed by a Japanese frigate which was escorting the Akatsuki Maru.

Capt. Kuiken said the power of the Solo and its manoeuvrability meant Greenpeace could pursue its action despite the dangers the crew faced.

A smaller, less dependable vessel — of the type proposed by more green-conscious members — would have meant giving up and sailing home, letting the Japanese have just what they wanted.

In October 1992 the Solo, carrying 29 crew, scientists and reporters, was shot at and arrested in the Kara Sea off the north coast of Russia while investigating the alleged dumping of nuclear waste. After the action Russia admitted to having dumped 18 nuclear reactors in the sea.

"What came out was a million times more important for the environment and for making people aware of things. I'm sorry we burned a bit of fuel, but when we get results like that I think it's really worth using a bit of fossil fuel," Capt. Kuiken said.

Though the debate continues, all members of Greenpeace are convinced that direct action campaigns are the necessary way forward if the movement is to survive and maintain its position as a headline-grabbing organisation.

Capt. Kuiken agrees. "I don't like having to do a flag day in Rotterdam while whales are getting killed in Norway. If we're heading that way then we're heading the wrong way."

As the huge building site spreads out from the steel, glass and concrete parliament building at its centre.

"It is a disaster. Like Beirut, but without the war," said Fabio Colasanti, a senior official with the European Commission, the executive of the EC.

Mr. Colasanti bought a beautiful house in the area, a short stroll from the commission's abandoned, asbestos-riddled Berlaymont headquarters, 10 years ago.

With his few remaining neighbours, he is fighting a rearguard action against the destruction of the once-peaceful area, where the night is often shattered by demolition crews working after dark to avoid disturbing office workers.

"For the moment I'm staying, but it is becoming difficult," Mr. Colasanti said.

Brussels burghers up in arms over EC's new parliament building

By Jeremy Lovell
Reuter

BRUSSELS — Rising like a vast, ultra-modern hothouse among the ruins of one of Brussels' smartest neighbourhoods, the European Parliament's new second home opens its doors for the first time on Wednesday.

Ten months after European Community leaders settled a squabble between Strasbourg and Brussels over whether the assembly's 518 members would be allowed to spend at least some of their time in their new home, the argument rumbles on.

This time it is the residents who are complaining as they watch the destruction of the elegant "Quartier Leopold."

The district, former architectural jewel in the crown of the Belgian capital, contains the offices of most of the EC's main institutions.

Wealthy householders in the few remaining pockets of tranquillity in the rapidly disintegrating area, where once artists such as French sculptor Auguste Rodin rubbed shoulders with industrialists and the nobility, are hanging on.

But their resolve is waning as the huge building site spreads out from the steel, glass and concrete parliament building at its centre.

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ject, costing 4.2 billion francs (\$1.2 billion), becomes more apparent.

From horizon to horizon stretches a sea of building sites, construction cranes and modern offices dwarfing clusters of older, once stately, homes between.

The focus of the destruction, which will eventually cover one-third of a million square metres, is the still incomplete parliament building.

Its domed, central section rises 12 floors above the city, and wings about half as high project on either side like ears.

A giant facade of office buildings is being thrown up along one end of the symmetrical structure destroying all in its path and forcing even the local railway station underground.

Property developers have begun moving in, looking for opportunities on subjects ranging from bananas to coups.

For this they will pay a rent of about 100 million European currency units (\$115 million) a

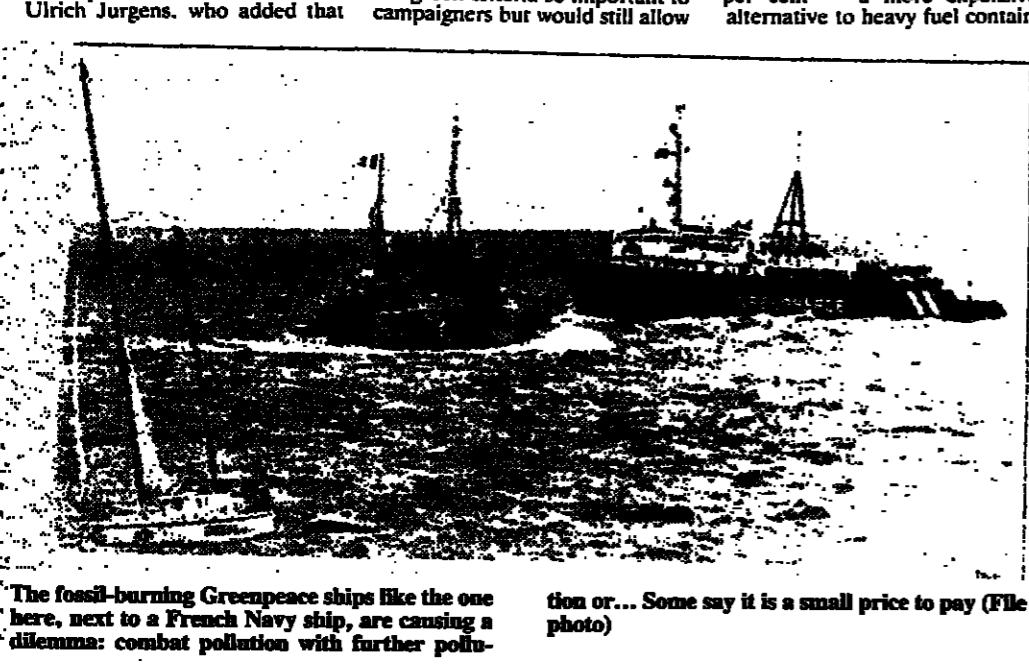
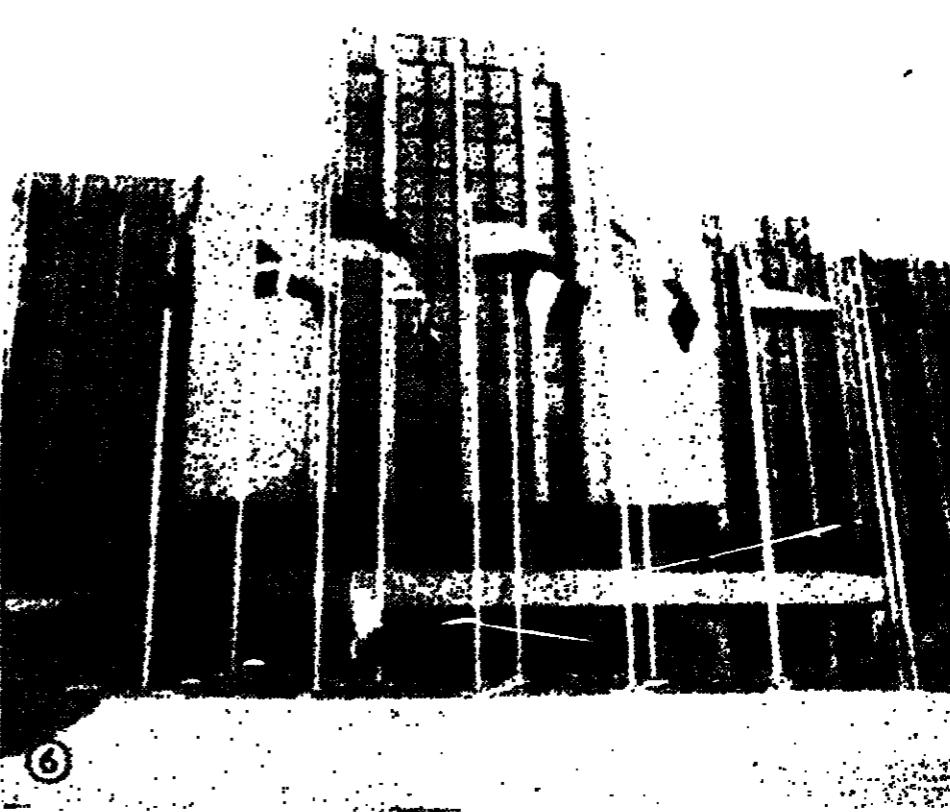
year for the next 20 years. Initially, full sessions in the new building will be brief and rare events. Only tour will be held there next year.

The parliament's first plenary session in its new quarters starting on Wednesday will last barely two days and cover just three topics — the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, development cooperation and bananas.

The number and length of these sessions are likely to grow until the roles of Strasbourg and Brussels are reversed.

The building's decor is best described as functional. Pastel shades, chromed steel, pale wood and neon lighting do little to soften the sharp angles.

The only nod in the direction of art is a bust of composer Ludwig van Beethoven standing alone in a corner of the 11th floor staring grimly into the empty heart of the building.



The fossil-burning Greenpeace ships like the one here, next to a French Navy ship, are causing a dilemma: combat pollution with further pollution or... Some say it is a small price to pay (File photo)

Former hostage Waite pursued by questions

By Robert Barr
The Associated Press

LONDON — Freed from the chains, the fear and the before freedom he suffered as a hostage, Terry Waite has returned to the public arena to face painful questions about what he was doing in Lebanon.

The publication of Mr. Waite's memoir, "Taken on Trust", has revived charges that the Church of England envoy was naive, or an egomaniac, or a stooge of Oliver North; that he took credit for hostage releases actually bought with U.S. arms shipments to Iran; that he is still holding back some of the truth.

Mr. Waite insists his conscience is clear.

"Particularly over here, a lot of people are out in the journalistic profession to make a reputation for themselves, and to be smart... and say, 'well, we knew better,'" Mr. Waite, 54, said in an interview last week.

Whatever his motives, Mr. Waite paid a severe price: 1,763 days of captivity, most of them in solitary confinement.

The bearded, 2.01-metre-tall aide to Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie had been involved in securing the release of British prisoners from Iran and Libya. In 1984, an American Presbyterian official, Fred Wilson, sought Mr. Waite's

help on behalf of the Rev. Benjamin Weir, who had disappeared in Lebanon.

Rev. Weir's captors, Islamic Jihad, took more hostages in 1985: Terry Anderson, the Rev. Martin Jenco, David Jacobsen and Thomas Sutherland.

Rev. Weir was released in September 1985. Two months later, the Associated Press bureau in Beirut received a letter signed by Messrs. Anderson, Jacobsen, Jenco and Sutherland, addressed to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

It carried a crucial message:

"Our captors have indicated that they are willing for you to be involved...."

Mr. Waite went to Beirut, met a representative of the kidnappers and returned with four polarized photographs of the captives, each holding a copy of the *Wall Street Journal* that Mr. Waite had signed to authenticate the pictures.

No other person ever actually got to a face-to-face meeting with the kidnappers and actually came out with photographs of American hostages. Nobody," Mr. Waite said.

"All you can say is, 'ok, where were you when there was a need? Were you there? Where were you when one of your fellow journalists was captured?'

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Gangs make Herculaneum town of fear

By Keith Weir
Reuter

HERCULANEUM, Italy — Ever since its Roman forerunner was buried by an eruption 2,000 years ago, this town has lived in fear. But it is drug gangs not Mount Vesuvius that strike terror into the hearts of residents.

Wedged between the Bay of Naples and the volcano, the small town has become a shooting gallery for the Camorra, the Neapolitan version of the Mafia, with gangland killings reminiscent of Al Capone's Chicago in the 1920s.

"Between 2,000 and 4,000 packets of heroin and cocaine were being traded daily," said Mr. Falco, adding that the price had plummeted as two rival gangs battled for control of the market.

"The state left a vacuum which the Camorra filled," the priest said.

The town council in Herculaneum has been dissolved because of alleged links with mobsters, a depressingly familiar story in the area.

Mr. Falco admits that pour-

said at his modern church on the fringes of town.

A steady flow of tourists still make the 20-minute train journey south from Naples to the excavated remains of a flourishing Roman resort engulfed with neighbouring Pompeii, when Vesuvius erupted in AD 79.

But they rub shoulders with scores of addicts drawn from all over southern Italy by the prospect of cheap drugs.

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Mr. Falco admits that pour-

ing police into trouble spots or deploying the army — as the government has done to help combat the Mafia on the southern island of Sicily — is no panacea.

The case symbolises the problems of the densely populated and violent 40-km stretch of coast below Naples, squeezed between the sea and the volcano and where the Camorra rules with an iron fist.

Mr. Falco says the failings of the state helped the Camorra tighten its grip — with the crime organisation expanding by creaming off huge funds which flowed into the area after the 1980 Naples earthquake.

"The state left a vacuum which the Camorra filled," the priest said.

The town council in Herculaneum has been dissolved because of alleged links with mobsters, a depressingly familiar story in the area.

He insists the town can be rescued by exploiting its rich history and geographical position but acknowledges that patience will be required.

French Cultural Center

Registration is now open at the French Cultural Center for the following courses:

- * French language courses for adults (all levels).
- * DELF and DALF courses.
- * Preparation courses for the exams at Sorbonne University (Paris).
- * French for business.
- * Arabic language courses for foreigners.

* The registration will last till 6/10/1993 and the courses will start on 6/10/1993 till 14/12/1993.

For more information please contact:
Tel. 637009, Jebel Webdeh - Amman.

6 Economy

Oman steps up reforms to boost economy

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The Gulf state of Oman is stepping up reforms to activate its once closed economy and diversify sources of income after a decline in oil prices. Omani officials have said.

The reform programme, the biggest of its kind in the oil-rich Gulf, involves large-scale privatisation and regulations to attract local and foreign investment and reverse a steady outflow of funds.

So far, two major companies have been sold to the public and the sale of another is scheduled early next year.

"We have completed the privatisation of two companies and we will begin with a third one at the start of next year. The share issues of those two companies have been fully covered," Mahmoud Al Jarwani, director of the Muscat stock market, told AFP by telephone from the Omani capital.

"The privatisation process is going smoothly. Four hotels will be sold soon and we hope more institutions will follow. As you see, the reform drive is gaining momentum and this will greatly stimulate the economy."

Other Gulf states started to encourage the private sector after the oil price fall but their drive has remained limited. Lack of investment channels for the Gulf private sector has prompted it to turn abroad and this led to accumulation of its funds to more than \$160 billion.

"There is a great interest by foreign investors in the privatisation operation in Oman," Mr. Jarwani said. "There are applications from international funds enquiring about investment opportunities in the privatised projects."

Finance and economy ministry undersecretary Hamoud Ibn Hilal Al Habsi said the privatised institutions were yielding high returns and this would allow the government to offer new projects for privatisation.

"The revenues from those privatised institutions will enable the government to set up new projects, which could be sold to the private sector when it is proved they are successful," he said.

Privatisation has pushed up activity on the Muscat exchange, where banks and companies have increased to 92, with a market capitalisation of \$82 million (rials \$1.5 billion). The share index, which had fallen to 113 points in late 1992 from 119 points six months earlier, reached 118 points last week.

South Korean automakers warned of over-investment

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korean automakers are seeking to expand production capacity over the coming years, but analysts warn against possible over-investment amid mounting overseas competition and a saturated domestic market.

South Korea's five automakers plan to invest a total of \$9.8 billion by 2000 to double their total annual production capacity to more than five million automobiles, most of them passenger cars.

If all the planned investment goes ahead, South Korea, now the seventh largest automaker in the world, would emerge as the fifth largest following Japan, the United States, Germany and France.

But some industry analysts said the five — Hyundai, Kia, Daewoo, and Ssangyong — would only manage to expand their total capacity to somewhere between 2.6 million and 4.14 million units by 2001 due to market conditions.

"All the five seemed to think when they made their investment plans that only they, not the others, would succeed in increasing their market share," said an official of the Korea Automobile Manufacturers

Association.

"They will have to adjust their investment plans in a reasonable way," the analyst said.

Hyundai Motors Co., South Korea's largest automaker, plans to invest a maximum \$3.7 billion alone to build a new plant to increase its annual capacity from its current 1.15 million units to two million units by 2000.

Daewoo Motors Co. seeks to invest \$2.1 billion to boost its capacity from the current 740,000 to 1.2 million units.

Kia Motors Co. has a plan to expand its capacity from the current 650,000 to a million units by 1996 and to 1.5 million units by the year 2000 with a total investment of \$1.9 billion.

Ssangyong Motors wants to put in \$1.86 billion by 1995 to have an annual capacity of 250,000 automobiles including 100,000 commercial vehicles and 70,000 jeeps.

Asiat Motors, producer of commercial vehicles, will invest some \$240 million to expand its facilities from the current 200,000 to 350,000 unit capacity.

The ambitious investment plans by the five automakers

ostensibly seem justifiable, considering the currently increasing domestic demand and exports, industry analysts say.

Domestic and overseas sales by Hyundai, Kia, Ssangyong and Asia increased by 14.4 per cent to a total of \$7.3 billion during the first six months through June.

Thanks to the strong yen and rising demand on overseas markets, including South East Asia, exports also surged 37.1 per cent to 358,001 automobiles during the first eight months through August.

Analysts said South Korean automobile exports would continue riding on the strong yen until 1995. But on the other hand, they said, the stronger yen would speed up production by Japanese competitors in low-wage countries.

"Cheap price is the appeal of South Korean-made cars in overseas markets, but Japanese cars assembled in developing countries may drive South Korean cars out of the market," said Han Jae-Yun, an analyst with the state-financed Korea Institute for Industrial Economics and Trade (Kiet).

He also said in a paper last week

that domestic demand was expected to slow down rapidly starting in the mid-1990s, and warned against rushing to invest.

In addition, the South Korean auto industry faces a widening technology gap with its competitors in advanced countries, while its small-scale suppliers remain backward.

"To maintain its market niche in the world," another Kiet researcher, O Kyu-Chang, said, "the South Korean auto industry should carry out two daunting tasks — developing technology and upgrading suppliers."

Meanwhile, leaders of South Korea's powerful business conglomerates gathered at their Federation of Korea Industries (FKI) headquarters here and resolved to make an all-out effort to boost exports to achieve a \$10 billion annual trade surplus as early as possible.

Their decision came after President Kim Young-Sam individually invited more than a dozen leaders of the business conglomerates — or chaebols — for dinner, and pleaded with them to take positive action to

boost the stagnant economy.

The chaebol leaders will shortly form a national committee to study ways to raise the international competitiveness of South Korean export products, according to FKI Vice-Chairman Cho Kyu-Ha.

The newly formed committee is to study each chaebol's plan for facility investment and technological development, Mr. Cho told a news conference.

Mr. Cho, however, refused to predict how soon the ambitious \$10 billion annual trade surplus target could be achieved, indicating it was still to early to even set the target year.

One FKI official recalled that South Korea had set a record \$11.4 billion trade surplus in 1988, although the figure tumbled to a \$6.9 billion deficit three years later amid the economic slowdown.

So far this year, the trade deficit amounted to \$2.89 billion at the end of August, as exports increased by 5.9 per cent to \$52.16 billion, against imports of \$55.06 billion, a 0.1 per cent decrease over the same period last year.

China's coal industry lays off 187,000 workers

BELTING (AFP) — China's coal mines laid off 187,000 workers in the first six months of 1993, as part of a programme to improve efficiency and reduce losses, the People's Daily reported Sunday.

Of those laid off, 86,900 workers were moved into service industry or processing jobs, areas into which China's coal industry has been diversifying to absorb its surplus labour, the report said.

The job cuts enabled the mining industry to reduce its losses by 27.8 per cent or 919 million yuan (\$18 million) and increase output per worker by 8.34 per cent to 1,377 tonnes of coal over the first six months of last year, it said.

Tertiary sector businesses linked to the industry increased their profits by 44 million yuan to 430 million yuan between January and June compared with the same period last year, the report

said. China's National Coal Mining conglomerate in February announced plans to find new jobs for some 400,000 workers over the next three years, saying two billion yuan had been set aside for the redundancy programme.

The industry, which has been losing money for decades, employs some seven million people and produces about one billion tonnes of coal annually. The huge work force and artificially low coal prices set by the government have made it impossible to cut costs.

Despite some progress, coal is still sold at prices well below its market value. The government has said prices will be brought in line with the market after 1995.

China is the world's largest producer and consumer of coal, accounting for 70 percent of energy used in the country.

Abu Dhabi, Japan sign gas export agreement

DUBAI (R) — Abu Dhabi, the biggest oil producer in the United Arab Emirates, Sunday agreed to double its gas exports to Japan.

The Abu Dhabi Gas Liquidification Company (Adgas) signed an agreement with the Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO) to export five million tonnes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) a year over the next 25 years.

Adgas General Manager Peter Carr said the signing in Abu Dhabi formalised a 1990 accord between Adgas and TEPCO.

The exports will begin in 1994, when expansion of Abu

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY OCTOBER 4, 1993

By Thoras S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Good day for getting surroundings in perfect condition, analysing the coming week so you can utilise it intelligently and to examine old conditions that require some revision on your part.

ARIES: (March 21-April 19) A day and evening to keep in mind the expectations of the one who is closest to you and to strange events so you will be able to carry through with promises made.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Consider well the various agreements you have made with outside contacts and eliminate whatever doubt is in anyone's mind about how best to perform.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A good day to plunge into whatever activities require you to concentrate upon and work them out in a more efficient and sensible fashion.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Early you can plan an entertainment you are anticipating while later there are details of other recreations that can wisely take your time.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Think about what you can do to upgrade conditions where you live and you find some situation which you can make operate much more as you desire.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Contact a newcomer and arrange to see this person after which you can get into the various statements, re-

port and communication that are awaiting your attention.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Fix-up your surroundings as you most desire them early and then you will be able to grapple more easily problems made.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Improve your appearance early then you can go out and get things more as you wish since others will respond to your charm, be more cooperative.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Look for some additional information you can gain by careful study so you are later equipped for an important and pending project.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Consider now the various personal goals which are yours and see an experienced friend who can help you attain them, carry through with suggestions given.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Think now what you can do to impress one who is able to advance your worldly ambitions and let that person surely be more aware of your desires.

PIRATES: (February 20 to March 20) Contact a newcomer and arrange to see this person after which you can get into the various statements, re-

THE Daily Crossword

by Fred Toole



Sports



Mark Hughes (centre right) of Manchester United tries an acrobatic attack as an unidentified Wednesday tries to block his attempt (AFP photo)

United pull further ahead

LONDON (AFP) — Manchester United striker Mark Hughes was backed by manager Alex Ferguson to embark on a goal spree after firing the champions to a 3-2 win in the English premiership at Sheffield Wednesday Saturday.

The Welsh international grabbed two goals and made the other for Ryan Giggs as United forged five points ahead at the top of the table.

"The got two goals last week, scored two again today and made another," said Ferguson. "He'll go on a run now, I'm sure of that. That's what he does. He'll score a few and then go on a run where he just can't stop."

United were tipped by Wednesday boss Trevor Francis to retain the title, even though they took a while to find their form on Saturday.

"Last season's success has given them added confidence," Francis reasoned. "They have so many outstanding players and I think the present United side is the best we've had in our domestic football for a long time."

Leeds are also being put forward as possible title contenders after a 4-0 home rout of Wimbledon made it five wins on the trot for Howard Wilkinson's team, but the Leeds boss scoffed at such talk.

"Titles are for books," he said. "It was a good result, especially as Wimbledon had had an impressive run before today."

"We did most things very well, scored two early goals and could have had more. It would have been 7-2. We became careless, but overall I couldn't complain."

Wimbledon manager Joe Kinnear agreed: "It was a nightmare start for us, conceding two excellent goals."

"We forgot the qualities that

got us where we are — hard graft and hard work. Certain people didn't do their jobs and we got punished."

"We've lost five players in the last two weeks, but I'm not making that an excuse. Leeds were worthy winners. We had about five chances away from home, but you can't stop class."

Aston Villa manager Ron Atkinson was just as angry with his side as they folded 2-0 at home to Newcastle.

"We were a shamble," he stormed. "It was a disgrace and an embarrassing performance."

In contrast, Newcastle boss Kevin Keegan was bubbling following his side's first away league success of the campaign.

Norwich manager Mike Walker was equally delighted with his side's display in their 1-0 home triumph over Coventry, which lifted the Canaries into fourth place, just behind Leeds.

"They say that when you play in Europe during the week, it can sometimes produce a low-par performances on the following Saturday, but we created enough chances to have won it comfortably," he enthused. "Some of our football was quite brilliant."

"It's also nice to be so near the top again. We definitely needed to win because Manchester United seem to be steaming away at the top and we needed a victory to keep in touch."

Second-placed Arsenal found their midweek European tie took its toll as they squeezed a goalless draw at Liverpool.

Liverpool manager Graeme Souness excused rookie striker Robbie Fowler after he spurned the chances to bury Arsenal.

Southampton and Sheffield United also finished all square at 3-3, but Saints manager Ian Woan was furious with his defenders.

Brentford said: "I would question all three goals because they were bad defensive errors."

Ipswich manager Mick McGovern had a similar complaint after his side had crashed 3-0 at Queens Park Rangers.

Chelsea player-manager Glenn Hoddle preferred to direct his anger at skipper Dennis Wise, sent off for a late tackle on David Burrows, following his side's 1-0 defeat at West Ham.

"I'm very disappointed," said the Chelsea boss. "We had a good run and now it's ended. Having a man sent off obviously puts you under extra pressure, but in the second half we could totally control the game. Why we didn't do it with 11 men in the first half is the question that hurts me."

Eintracht Frankfurt pull away

In Bonn, Eintracht Frankfurt, deprived of top scorer Anthony Yeboah, extended their lead at the top of the German League to three points by beating 1991-92 champions VFB Stuttgart 2-0 Saturday.

Defending champions Werder Bremen could only manage a 1-1 draw at Schalke 04 to concede a little more ground to Frankfurt.

But the damage could have been greater for the northern port town. Schalke defender Jürgen Lügner seemed to have ensured a win when he opened the scoring with a quarter-hour to go. But Bremen striker Bernd Hobsch snatched a point with a goal three minutes from the final whistle.

It's also nice to be so near the top again. We definitely needed to win because Manchester United seem to be steaming away at the top and we needed a victory to keep in touch."

Second-placed Arsenal found their midweek European tie took its toll as they squeezed a goalless draw at Liverpool.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1 — Both vulnerable, as South would have shown his cheapest four-card suit.

Q.2 — Neither vulnerable, as South would have shown his cheapest four-card suit.

The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 0 Pass 1 0 Pass 3 0 Pass ?

What action do you take?

A. — This is not the time to worry about whether you should have responded in the first place. Once you ventured one heart (our choice, too), partner's bid is unconditional forcing. Bid four clubs.

Q.3 — As South, vulnerable, you hold: ♦A9 ♦VA9 ♦QK92 ♦Q1062 Partner opens the bidding with one no-trump. What do you respond?

A. — Even if our no-trump range was 15-17, we would invoke a limit with all the other primes and intermediates. We think this hand is just too good for us no trump. Our choice would be a jump to 4 NT, which lets partner to bid a slam with a maximum opening.

Q.4 — As South, vulnerable, you hold: ♦K9 ♦VA10 ♦QK97 ♦AKJ8 The bidding has proceeded: North West South East 1 0 Pass 4 NT Pass ?

What action do you take?

A. — First, partner's bid is quantitative, not ace-seeking. With 21 points, you're on the borderline of accepting. Your two four-card suits give the decision to act, but the and could play better in a suit. In an attempt to find a 4-4 fit, accept a bidding five clubs. Without a four-card club fit, partner will re-

— 20-22 HCP

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Urban Sea wins Arc

PARIS (Agencies) — Outsider Urban Sea won the Prix De L'arc De Triomphe Sunday.

British challengers White Muzzle and Opera House came second and third respectively, with Intrepidity fourth.

Urban Sea was ridden by Eric Saint-Martin son of ex-top rider Yves Saint-Martin, who wore the colours of Hong Kong owner David Tsui.

Eric's father won the race four times himself.

Meanwhile champion stayer Assessor ploughed through the Longchamp mud to win the Group One Prix Du Cadran to the delight of the man who had just sold him.

"I normally don't back him," said ex-owner Bjorn Nielsen, "but I had to have something on today."

Nielsen, an American-based commodities broker who once played Davis Cup tennis for Denmark, sold Assessor earlier in the week to Sultan Mohammad of Saudi Arabia.

Nielsen was reluctant to part with by far the best horse he has ever owned. The colt was one time favourite for the 1992 Epsom Derby and won the French St. Leger here last year.

"But it was a good deal and money talks," said Nielsen, who would not discuss the exact price.

Assessor, who revels in heavy ground, proved himself one of the top stayers in Europe with an impressive six lengths success over Sought Out.

Sought Out, ridden by Gerald Mosse, had a good lead turning into the straight with 400 metres of the four kilometres haul remaining.

But John Reid knew Assessor had plenty in reserve and the pair forged clear to provide another big race winner for English trainer Richard Hannon.

Reid said: "The owner thought I had given him too much to do but I was always confident."

Assessor started at just over even money favourite and if his new owner keeps him in training the Ascot Gold Cup and other top long distance events look well within the colt's compass.

The Prix Du Cadran was one of two Group One races providing an impressive prelude to the main feature, the Prix de L'arc de Triomphe.

Victory in the other, the grand criterium for two-year-olds, went to 9-1 chance Lost World.

Ridden by promising Olivier Poidier for trainer Elie Leloutre, Lost World won by three-quarters of a length from Signe Divin, the mount of Thierry Jarret.

Psychobabbler, partnered by Cash Aasmussen, stayed on in the mud to finish third a further length and a half away.

Short, Kasparov draw 12th game

LONDON (R) — British challenger Nigel Short and champion Garry Kasparov ended the first half of their 24-game chess match Saturday pleased to have shared honours in a hard-fought draw in the 12th game.

Kasparov leads 8-½ to 3-½ after five wins and seven draws. He needs only a 12-12 tie to retain the crown and 12-½ points will secure the ¼ winner's share of the 1.7 million pound (\$2.5 million) prize sponsored by the Times of London newspaper.

In Saturday's game, Kasparov continued his strategy of risky and ambitious play when defending with the black pieces and sacrificed a bishop early in the game to gain an armada of dangerous passed pawns.

Experts found it difficult to assess the delicately balanced endgame that eventually arose, with Short having an extra bishop to battle against the champion's dangerous phalanx of three pawns.

Kasparov seemed to have slightly more winning chances, but Short's accurate play kept the game roughly in balance.

Short managed to neutralise the champion's threats and was in no danger when the players agreed to split the point.

The draw completes Short's best week of the event, having led the champion even with three complex and hard-fought draws.

But the challenger's biggest hurdle remains as the match has now reached the halfway point with Kasparov still undefeated.

At a post-game news conference the players agreed that Kasparov's bold sacrifice neutralised Short's advantage of the first move and hinted that Kasparov had even gained the upper hand.

Kasparov said his decision to play an endgame with a mass of powerful pawns against a bishop had been misjudged, and

that he then had to steer for equality.

"It was a good game. Both sides played well," Short said.

"So, have we reached perfection now?" Kasparov asked.

Kasparov, who has seemed fatigued in recent games, appeared to have regained most of his energy.

Andrew Page, Kasparov's manager, told Reuters that the champion had been busy with non-chess matters recently but was now regaining his strength.

"It's a long, hard match and there (are) always some down periods but he's back now. I think Garry is going to be very, very dangerous next week," Page said.

The coming week's play is a "black week" for Short, who must defend against Kasparov's often lethal assault with the white pieces in two of the three games.

The official world championship match, between Russian Anatoly Karpov and Dutchman Jan Timman, sanctioned by the world chess body FIDE, has been suspended for a week, at the halfway point in that 24-game series. Karpov leads Timman 7-5.

FIDE is still in emergency negotiations after the withdrawal of second-half sponsors Oman.

Besides supplying a venue and operating costs, an emergency sponsor must also provide the FIDE minimum of one million Swiss francs (\$697,300) for title match after the organisers in the Netherlands failed to raise any money towards the advertised prize fund of 1.8 million pounds (\$2.7 million).

FIDE disqualified Kasparov and Short after a dispute over the conditions of their title match. Short and Kasparov responded by founding the Professional Chess Association, which is the organisation represented at the London match.

Graf crushes Novotna in Leipzig final

LEIPZIG (R) — Steffi Graf swept aside Jana Novotna 6-2,

6-0 to win the \$375,000 Leipzig Women's Indoor tennis tournament on Germany's national day Sunday.

Graf, top seed and defending champion, never let the Czech third-seed into the match, dominating the indoor court with powerful serves and precise volleys.

It was the first time the pair had met since Graf beat the Czech in the Wimbledon final in July but any hopes Novotna had of gaining revenge quickly disappeared as the German broke her serve at will.

Graf capitalised on her first match point on Novotna's serve when the Czech, who turned 25 on Saturday, hit a backhand beyond the baseline. The match was over in less than an hour.

"We all know Jana can play much better," Graf told the crowd afterwards. "But maybe she was up too late last night celebrating her birthday."

It was Graf's fourth victory in as many years in the east German tournament and coincided with the third anniversary of German reunification.

Graf said she was particularly proud of her victory because it took place on unity day.

"Winning on this particular day was special," Graf said. "I am happy to have played such great tennis today."

Michael Chang wins Malaysian Open: In Kuala Lumpur, American Michael Chang subdued Sweden's Jonas Svensson 6-0, 6-4 in one of his best finals

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ROMEO AND JULIET

what was their secret? of course; their birth stones .

U.S. helicopter said downed in Somali capital

Combined agency dispatches

MOGADISHU — A Black Hawk helicopter is believed to have been downed Sunday here in a vast sweep launched in the early afternoon by the U.S. Quick Reaction Force which led to violent clashes with Somalis, according to European military sources and Somali witnesses.

However, no official confirmation was obtainable from U.N. military forces.

Earlier in the day fighting broke out between U.S. and Somali forces near the headquarters of rebel warlord General Mohammad Farah Aideed after three U.S. servicemen were injured by a remote-controlled bomb.

Somalis could be seen firing rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) at U.S. helicopters which returned fire with rockets. Witnesses said there were wounded in the fighting near the Bakhara market in the northeast of the city.

The attack came after three U.S. soldiers were injured when a mine exploded as they drove past it, U.N. spokesman Captain Tim McDavid said.

Capt. McDavid said a Somali worker travelling with the U.S. soldiers was killed in the car-bomb blast, but denied claims by a crowd of Somalis at the scene that any U.N. staff had been killed.

He said the three Americans, one of whom was seriously injured, were evacuated from the scene of the blast by helicopter.

No American soldiers were killed, the spokesman said, adding that the blast was caused by a device operated by remote control.

On Sunday afternoon, U.S. Army Rangers were reported to be combing the Bakhara market area together with Pakistani troops and other contingents from the U.N. peacekeeping forces.

The narrow streets of the Bakhara market are reputed to be among the most dangerous in Mogadishu.

Arms are traded there and the area is thought to be one of the hiding places of Gen. Aideed.

The U.N.'s 27,000-strong army, whose original mission was to restore order and over-

see the rehabilitation of the ruined country, have been sucked into a war with militiamen loyal to Gen. Aideed.

More than 50 peacekeepers and hundreds of Somalis have been killed since June.

The U.N. wants to arrest Gen. Aideed for the killing of 24 Pakistani peacekeepers in an ambush in June.

U.S. President Bill Clinton last week called for a new Somali peace strategy in which the U.N. would make greater efforts to rebuild the shattered social structure.

Mr. Clinton denied the Americans were moving away from the aim of capturing Gen. Aideed but said achieving national reconciliation should be the goal of the operation.

The Italian ANSA news agency said there was no immediate word on the fate of the crew of the Black Hawk helicopter, believed to consist of three men, following the shooting-down incident at around 1700 local time (1500 GMT).

It was one of five helicopters flying over the Bakhara market as United Nations troops searched the area.

The ANSA report, quoting what it called reliable sources, said 11 American soldiers were believed to have been wounded in clashes with Somali militiamen in the market area.

A Somali eyewitness spoke of seeing dozens of dead Somalis lying in a street.

Puffs of black smoke could be seen in the sky as anti-aircraft missiles were fired at U.N. helicopters.

Unconfirmed reports said a fragment of a shell had hit a second American helicopter but its pilot had managed to land it safely and no one was believed hurt.

A Belgian helicopter was hit in a separate incident in the Kisumu region in the north of Somalia, ANSA reported.

The Belgian crew were all believed to have survived.

The U.N. special envoy to Somalia, U.S. Admiral Jonathan Howe, held a meeting Sunday with Djibouti President Hassan Gouled Aptidon in Djibouti following an earlier meeting in Addis Ababa with Ethiopian President Meles Zenawi.

Trade centre bomb trial starts today

NEW YORK (R) — Eight women and four men will gather in court Monday to hear testimony on the bombing of the World Trade Centre, the most spectacular guerrilla attack on American soil.

Opening statements are expected in Manhattan's federal court and prosecutors are expected to begin introducing evidence. Lawyers say the trial will last at least three months.

The selection of the 12 jurors and six alternates has been complicated by intense publicity and the fact so many people throughout the metropolitan area were affected by the blast.

The Feb. 26 explosion tore through the basement of the nation's largest office complex, killing six people and injuring more than 1,000. It knocked out electrical and ventilation systems in the 110-storey twin towers, causing hundreds of workers to escape through dark, smoky stairwells.

Some of the defendants are alleged followers of the blind Egyptian cleric Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, who has been charged in a separate federal case with having led the guerrillas that bombed the World Trade Centre.

He is expected to go on trial next year with 14 other defendants on conspiracy charges that include planning to blow up the United Nations and other New York landmarks as well as plotting to kill Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

The current case involves four defendants: Mohammad Salameh, 25, an illegal immigrant of Palestinian descent; Nidal Ayyad, 25, a naturalised U.S. citizen of Palestinian descent; Mahmoud Abu Halima, 33, an Egyptian national and Ahmad Ajaj, 27, a Palestinian born in Jerusalem.

They were accused of having carried out the bombing and for the resulting deaths and injuries. If convicted, they face a possible maximum term of life in prison.



PRO-COMMUNIST REVOLT: A group of riot policemen tries to stop the crowd to break through the security cordon surrounding the White House in Moscow Sunday (see page one). Violent clashes erupted between some 10,000 anti-Yeltsin demonstrators and security forces (AFP photo)

Political parties gearing up to release lists of candidates

By Mariana M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Political party leaders are laboriously deliberating over nominations for their candidates in the Nov. 8 legislative elections after setting a jolt by last week's announcement that the polls would be held on time. It appeared that most parties have only begun to take the electioneering process seriously ahead of the Oct. 14 kick-off line.

"Our central committee has decided to participate in the upcoming elections," said Ali Sa'ad, head of the conservative Party for Progress and Justice. "We are now analysing who the potential candidates could be. We have formed election committees to assess the strength and viability of every candidate," said Mr. Sa'ad, whose party is one of five right-of-centre political parties in the Kingdom.

Founded by a former advisor to His Majesty the King, Adnan Abu Odeh, the party expects that the elections would focus on individuals of candidates rather than on political party loyalties or platforms. "Individual appeal will play an important role in these elections," said Mr. Sa'ad, adding that he expected his party to announce its election list before Oct. 14.

Other more centrist parties, like Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh's Yaqitha Party, have already announced that they have "no party list" but that their members are running as individual candidates. Mr. Rawabdeh himself has been campaigning in his home district of Irbid, where

he hopes to win enough votes to assure him of a second consecutive term in the Lower House. A native of Sarieh, Mr. Rawabdeh told the Jordan Times: "At this stage political parties are still at an embryonic stage and individuals are more likely to get mass appeal than parties will. That's why we are running as individuals rather than parties."

Some leftist parties, especially members of the Jordan Arab National Democratic Alliance (JANDA), a broad coalition of leftist and liberal parties as well as individuals, are considering joint tickets.

ELECTIONS 1993

But, according to the head of the Jordanian Baath Arab Socialist Party (JBASP), Ahmad Najdawi, one of almost a dozen parties which are part of JANDA, "things won't be decided before Tuesday."

"We are still meeting and JANDA is also having continuous meetings to decide on a strategy and on some joint candidates," Mr. Najdawi said.

"Joint candidates" such as liberal independents who are JANDA members, including former Amman deputies Taher Al Masri and Faris Nabulsi as well as Mohammad Faris Tarawneh of Karak and former Minister of Youth Saleh Israheida who is running in Irbid, have all been floated by the JANDA coalition.

The Jordan People's

Democratic Party (JDP), also a member of JANDA, is now reconsidering its election list announced two months ago.

"We have to take the one-person, one-vote factor into account. It had not been decided when we announced our candidates in August. We must take into account recent political events in the region. We may change some of our candidates or run on a joint ticket; this will be decided this week," said party spokesman Isam Khalifeh.

However, some other members of JANDA, such as the Democratic Party for Progress in Jordan (DPPJ) and the Jordanian Communist Party have announced their election lists.

Ali Amer, the secretary-general of DPPJ, said the party had decided to field six candidates. They are: Nizar Al Kayed in Amman's second district, Ali Rawajda in Jerash, Ahmad Makahil in Irbid, Dr. Mohammad Hamdan in Zarqa, Faris Jamali in Madaba, and Samir Al Khateeb.

Dr. Yacoub Zayyad, the veteran head of Jordan's once-outlawed Communist Party, said he was running for the Christian seat in Amman's Third District, a seat which he failed to secure in the 1989 elections. Writer Fakhril Kawar won the seat with a small margin over Mr. Zayyad.

The Jordanian Communist Party was fielding two other candidates, Dr. Zayyad told the Jordan Times. They are Ahmad Jaradat in Irbid and Mohammed Musref of the Beni Hamida tribe in Madaba.

men being beaten up.

Mr. Rutskei called on security forces to join the rebels. "You have only seconds to change sides and defect to the people," he said.

Parliamentary officials said demonstrators smashed a truck into the glass front of the Moscow mayor's office, beat several men found in their offices and seized two aides, meeting little resistance, reporters reported.

A tank then fired its cannon into the crowd. At least two persons were seriously hurt.

Anti-Yeltsin crowds had earlier surrounded the T.V. headquarters, home of the two main news channels in Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States, which are accused by the opposition of being biased in Mr. Yeltsin's favour.

Reuters Television filmed

armoured personnel carriers and trucks of soldiers on Moscow's southeast ring road early on Sunday evening, on the opposite side of the city centre to the White House parliament building.

There was no indication whose orders they were following.

The current political crisis began last month when Mr. Yeltsin dissolved the conservative parliament after months of confrontation and called elections for a new legislature.

Spokesmen for Russia's Interior Ministry and security ministry, the former KGB, said they remained loyal to Mr. Yeltsin.

"We remain loyal to President Yeltsin," a security ministry spokesman said by telephone. "The Ministry of Security is in control of the situation."

Mr. Rutskei, named acting president by the ousted legislature, addressed a crowd of

half-hearted salvos of tear-gas and a few baton charges, but the demonstrators clearly had the upper hand. Police have been on duty for nearly two weeks in the streets of the capital.

The Reuter photographer saw a dead policeman and said it looked as if he was shot in the temple by a sniper from the White House.

Other witnesses saw police-

oldstyle communists who broke through police cordon. From the White House balcony, the Afghan war hero, once a Yeltsin ally, urged tanks to storm the Kremlin, the mayor's office.

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Mr. Rutskei, named acting

Libya decries plan for stiffer sanctions

TRIPOLI (Agencies) — Libya Sunday denounced Western plans to step up U.N. sanctions unless Tripoli agrees to hand over two suspects in the Lockerbie bombing.

The draft U.N. resolution tabled by Washington, London and Paris "shows the hatred held by these countries ... and their will to combat (other peoples') aspirations for a better future," charged the official news agency JANA.

The Libyan envoy to the United Nations on Saturday dismissed what he called threats from the West.

Ambassador Ali Ahmad Al Khodari, quoted on Libyan Television, said: "Libya attaches no importance whatsoever to the threats of the three Western countries."

On Friday, they tabled the resolution at the U.N. Security Council calling for tighter sanctions against Tripoli because of its refusal to hand two Libyans accused of blowing up a U.S. airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland.

The December 1988 attack killed 270 people.

France also wants to question at least two Libyans in connection with the destruction of a French UTA airliner over Niger in 1989 that claimed 170 lives.

The ambassador said Libya was trying to resolve an "artificial crisis" with "wisdom and patience (and) without taking into consideration the actions of three countries."

Foreign Minister Ali Munasser has sent a letter to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali to stress Tripoli's "earnestness and ... firm determination" to implement Security Council resolutions on Lockerbie.

Representatives of the three Western states are to meet Dr. Ghali in New York on Monday to discuss Lockerbie, a U.N. spokesman said.

"But when you find a solution, then this will pave the way for a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict."

Israelis hunt activists

(Continued from page 1) Israelis, an apparent reference to militant PLO factions that have said they will honour Mr. Arafat's appeal to halt violence.

Hamas and smaller Islamic groups had kept up attacks on Israelis since the agreement including use of suicide bombers, he said. But there was a substantial drop in attacks by other groups.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Israel had not agreed to stop its pursuit of militants.

"On the contrary, there was an understanding that the PLO would also operate against the terrorists. There are no secret agreements," Mr. Peres told army radio in a telephone interview from New York Sunday.

Under the agreement Israel will begin withdrawing its army from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho starting on Dec. 13 and give Palestinians limited self-rule.

Palestinian adviser Ziad Abu Ziyad said Mr. Arafat wrote to Mr. Rabin protesting at the army operations and calling for a halt to all arrests.

"Chairman Arafat considers the Israeli campaign in the occupied territories and especially in Gaza a violation of the spirit of the Israeli-Palestinian accord," Mr. Ziyad, an adviser to Palestinian peace negotiators, told Reuters Sunday.

A wanted PLO guerrilla has issued a personal plea to the Israeli army not to hunt down and kill him and his comrades now that the autonomy agreement has been reached.

"We ask Israel to respect peace and cancel the order to kill us and to stop hunting us," said Anwar Eldeeb, "head of the PLO's armed wing, the Fatah Hawks, in eastern Gaza.

Six guerrillas, including the leader of the Black Panthers, the armed wing on the West Bank of Fatah, were arrested last Wednesday.

"I urge peace-loving Israelis

action rather than words, stressing nothing less than a written guarantee to hand over the Lockerbie and UTA suspects would be acceptable.

Last week, Libya agreed to a trial in Scotland of the Lockerbie suspects but said it was up to the accused to decide whether to surrender.

PLO lobbies Libya

Libya is the only Arab country officially to have opposed the Palestinian-Israeli peace deal, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said in an interview published Sunday.

"Officially, there is no Arab country against the agreement, except Libya," said Mahmoud Abbas, who signed the autonomy accord between Israel and the PLO at the White House on Sept. 13.

"The PLO will exert diplomatic efforts to explain the reasons and motives of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement so Libya will understand our position and change its stand," said Al Ittihad newspaper in the United Arab Emirates.

Mr. Abbas made no reference to Syrian or Iraqi criticism of the accord starting Oct. 13 in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

In a U.S. television interview broadcast on Friday, Syrian President Hafez Al Assad said he felt betrayed by the agreement but stressed he would not scuttle it.

But Mr. Abbas, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, said the accord would pave the way for other peace deals in the region.

"The Palestinian problem is the most difficult in the Middle East. If its settlement is deferred, then it could be ignored," he said.